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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,101	12/20/2001	Clifford Lee Hannel	PA3545US	8647

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EXAMINER
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LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/019,101	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HANNEL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Etienne P LeRoux	<b>Art Unit</b> 2161	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/31/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Status***

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1-14 are rejected as detailed below.

***Lengthy Specification***

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. The specification of the present application comprises 126 pages.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,634,053 issued to Noble et al (hereafter Noble) in view of US Pat No 7,213,262 (Elley et al), hereafter Elley.

**Claim 1:**

Noble discloses:

a virtual database service [col 4, line 63 through col 5, line 3],  
comprising the virtual database table [col 5, lines 18-25],

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wherein the virtual database table comprises one or more rows records, [col 5, line 20], each of the one or more rows comprising one or more fields [col 5, line 21],

the query comprising a field name and an indication of manner for selecting a row [col 5, line 60 – col 6, line 15],

wherein the virtual database service is configured to receive the query, respond to the filed name and the indication of the manner for selecting a row as required to obtain the information to be provided from the information source, and providing the information as a value of the field indicated by the field name in the selected row in response to the query [col 5, line 60 – col 6, line 15]

Noble discloses the elements of the claimed invention as noted above but does not disclose an information source comprising the information to be provided in response to the query of the virtual database table, wherein the information source comprises an access evaluator configured to determine whether a user may have access to an information resource within the information source. Elley discloses:

column 1, lines 60-67:

The first question involves a process called client authentication. The second involves reference to an authorization decision mechanism, such as an Access Control List (ACL) maintained by the server and containing a list of individual clients and/or client groups who are permitted access to the resource. The present invention relates to the determination of group membership or group non-membership of resource-requesting clients.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Noble to include above limitation based on the teaching of Elley for the

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purpose of ensuring integrity of the information contained in the virtual tables by controlling access to the virtual tables.

Examiner Notes:

The claimed "access evaluator" has been interpreted according to the following which applicant provided in the response of 10/31/2007.

Before the access control system in which the present invention is implemented can grant a user access to an information resource, it must do two things: authenticate the user, that is, determine that the user is the entity it claims to be; and make a user group membership determination, that is, determine whether the user's group memberships are such that the access policies for the information resource permit the user to access to the information resource.

Claim 2:

The combination of Noble and Elley discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above and furthermore, Noble discloses a manner of selecting a row includes a selection value; and the information source provides a component of the information to be provided in response to a match between the selection value and a pattern that matches a plurality of values and is accessible to the information source [col 10, lines 20-25]

Claim 4:

The combination of Noble and Elley discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above and furthermore, Noble discloses the information source is an access evaluator which determines whether a user may have access to an information resource; the manner of selecting the row includes information from which the user and the information resource may be determined; and

the provided information includes an indication of whether the user determined from the information may access the information resource determined therefrom [col 12, lines 48-55]

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Noble and Elley as applied to claim 1 and further in view of The Coldfusion 4.0 Web Application Construction Kit, Third Edition by Ben Forta, Nate Weiss, Michael Dinowitz, Ashley King and Davis Crawford (hereafter Forta), Published December 23, 1998.

Claim 3:

The combination of Noble and Eley discloses the elements of the claimed invention as noted above but does not disclose wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query. Forta discloses wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query [Listing 8.6 and Fig 8.20]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query as taught by Forta for the purpose of selecting a table and filtering out the rows which are not of interest.

Claims 5-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Noble and Elley as applied to claim 4 and further in view of US Pat No 5,504,890 issued to Sanford (hereafter Sanford).

Claim 5:

The combination of Noble and Elley discloses the elements of the claimed invention as noted above and furthermore, Noble discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above but does not disclose the access evaluator determines whether the user may have access to the information resource by considering one or more access policies, each access policy indicating whether a user group may have access to a set of information resources and access by the user to the information resource being allowed when the access policies for the user groups to which the user belongs and the sets of information resources to which the information resource belongs so indicate; and the manner of selecting the row contains membership information about the user from which membership of the user in a user group may be determined. Sanford discloses the access evaluator determines whether the user may have access to the information resource by considering one or more access policies, each access policy indicating whether a user group may have access to a set of information resources and access by the user to the information resource being allowed when the access policies for the user groups to which the user belongs and the sets of information resources to which the information resource belongs so indicate; and the manner of selecting the row contains membership information about the user from which membership of the user in a user group may be determined [collaboration amongst contributors, col 2, lines 11-23]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include the access evaluator determines

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whether the user may have access to the information resource by considering one or more access policies, each access policy indicating whether a user group may have access to a set of information resources and access by the user to the information resource being allowed when the access policies for the user groups to which the user belongs and the sets of information resources to which the information resource belongs so indicate; and the manner of selecting the row contains membership information about the user from which membership of the user in a user group may be determined as taught by Noble for the purpose of controlling access such data consistency can be maintained.

Claim 6:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1 and 5 as noted above and furthermore discloses the access evaluator uses the membership information to determine membership of the user in a user group [Sanford: Fig 8, col 12, lines 4-16].

Claim 7:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1, 5 and 6 as noted above and furthermore discloses the access evaluator determines that there may be a user group such that membership in the user group would give the user access to the information resource; and the provided information indicates a method of providing further information about the user in a further query from which the user's membership in the user group can be determined [Sanford: collaboration identification, col 7, lines 20-23].

Claim 8:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4-7 as noted above and furthermore discloses the further information includes authentication



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information which may be used to validate the user's identity [Sanford: collaboration identity, col 7, lines 20-23].

Claim 9:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4-8 as noted above and furthermore discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator, the authenticator using the authentication information to validate the user's identity [Sanford: another collaboration identification, col 12, lines 35-41].

Claim 10:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4-9 as noted above and furthermore discloses the response to the further query provides an indication whether the user's identity is valid [Sanford: Fig 8, col 12, lines 4-17].

Claim 12:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1, 4 and 5 as noted above and furthermore discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator which validates the identity of the user; the authenticator uses the membership information to validate the identity of the user; the access evaluator determines membership of the user in a user group only after the authenticator has validated the user's identity [Sanford: Fig 4, 125 collaboration number, col 7, lines 15-20].

Claim 13:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4 as noted above and furthermore discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator which validates an identity of the user; the manner of selecting the row includes authentication

information which the authenticator uses to validate the user's identity; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the authenticator and includes an indication of whether the user's identity is valid [Sanford: Fig 4, 125 collaboration number, col 7, lines 15-20].

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Noble and Elley and further in view of US Pat No 5,115,501 issued to Kerr (hereafter Kerr).

Claim 14:

The combination of Noble and Elley discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4 as noted above but does not disclose an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the manner of selecting the row includes profile information gathering information which indicates to the profile information source how to gather the profile information; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the profile information source and includes the profile information. Kerr discloses an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the manner of selecting the row includes profile information gathering information which indicates to the profile information source how to gather the profile information; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the profile information source and includes the profile information [Fig 6]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the manner of selecting the row includes profile information gathering information which indicates to the profile information source how

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to gather the profile information; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the profile information source and includes the profile information as taught by Kerr for the purpose of customization of the search query.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford and further in view of US Pat No 5,748,890 issued to Goldberg et al (hereafter Goldberg).

Claim 11:

The combination of Noble, Elley and Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1, 4 and 5 as noted above but does not disclose an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile: information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group. Goldberg discloses an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile: information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group [user's role, claim 3]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the

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information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile: information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group as taught by Goldberg for the purpose of providing additional means of authenticating a user within a user's group.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 10/31/2007 have been carefully considered but are moot based on above new grounds of rejection.

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P. LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Etienne LeRoux

1/16/2008

  
ETIENNE LEROUX  
PRIMARY EXAMINER